



Afternoon Alert - Thursday, April 12, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NTV and Fuji TV gave top play to a report that a man was arrested this morning for hitting with his car two schoolchildren as they crossed the street in Komaki, Aichi. One of the children was seriously injured, and the other suffered a minor injury. NHK, TBS, and TV Asahi led with a report that a 19-year-old police officer was arrested early this morning on charges of fatally shooting a police sergeant at a police box in Hikone, Shiga, on Wednesday evening.

INTERNATIONAL

Secretary of State nominee Pompeo says he will resolve North Korea issue through diplomacy

NHK reported this afternoon that CIA Director Pompeo, who has been nominated as the next secretary of state, released on Wednesday excerpts from the statement he plans to read at the Senate confirmation hearing scheduled for Thursday. The network said Pompeo will express confidence that the upcoming U.S.-DPRK summit will end in success, and stress that he will seek to resolve the North Korea issue through diplomacy. On the planned summit between the U.S. and North Korea, he reportedly plans to say: "I am confident that we will not repeat the mistakes of the past. President Trump isn't one to play games at the negotiating table — and I won't be either." The network also said Pompeo will stress that he will resolve security issues through diplomacy by saying: "War is always the last resort. I would prefer achieving the President's foreign policy goals with unrelenting diplomacy." The network also said Pompeo will need the support of Democrats to be confirmed and there are concerns that the Trump administration will become more hawkish if Pompeo becomes the secretary of state. The network speculated that the CIA chief is trying to emphasize his stance of putting diplomacy first in preparation for the confirmation hearing.

NSC's Yachi visits Washington

TV Asahi reported at noon on the finding that Secretary General of the National Security Secretariat Yachi is "secretly" visiting Washington to hold talks with new National Security Advisor Bolton ahead of the planned U.S.-Japan summit slated for next week. The network said Yachi, who arrived in Washington on Wednesday, will meet with Ambassador Bolton to discuss bilateral cooperation over North Korea. The network said they were originally planning to meet on Wednesday, but the talks were postponed to Thursday as Ambassador Bolton was busy dealing with the Syria issue. Noting that Director of the National Security Office of South Korea Chung will also meet with Ambassador Bolton on Thursday, the network speculated that they may hold a trilateral meeting.

- [Gist of FM Kono's meetings with ROK president, foreign minister on April 11](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Interview with Tomohisa Takei: "Japan should push for denuclearization of North Korea"](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Japan must craft flexible strategy for changing N. Korean situation](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Japan-Russia bureau-chief-level working group fails to make progress](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan vows to provide economic aid for Bhutan's new 5-yr economic plan](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Furuya elected to head Diet members' league for abduction issue](#) (Yomiuri)

ECONOMY

- [Concern growing about possible yen appreciation as a result of U.S.-Japan summit](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan and U.S. to propose digital trade rule to counter China](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Japan must make utmost efforts to maintain free trade](#) (Nikkei)
- [KORUS FTA renegotiations suggest Japan too may be pressed to give in to "U.S.'s security card"](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe, OECD chief affirm need for multilateral fix to trade disputes](#) (Kyodo News)
- [JAL seeks to partner with 100 startups for technological innovation](#) (Nikkei)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on April 11, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of interpellations at Lower House Budget Committee, April 11](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Abe denies instructing officials to favor friend's school project](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe's ex-aide cleared for questioning on parallel school scandal](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [MEXT source: Kantei informed ministry of Ehime, Kake Gakuen officials' visit in advance](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [New party formed by DP, Party of Hope to elect leader in September](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Hosoda has little political ambition despite being head of largest LDP faction](#) (Shukan Bunshun)
- [Cartoon: Work-style reforms](#) (Akahata)
- [Cartoon: SDF's daily activity logs](#) (Sankei)

SOCIETY

Toilet revolution in Japan

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" on Wednesday reported that public toilets at airports, stations, commercial facilities, and parks across Japan are undergoing major renovations ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Toshiba Ward of Tokyo, where the percentage of young women in their 20s and 30s is expected to drop below 50% by 2040, is hoping to draw more young women to the area by renovating public toilets in parks. The program also showed different types of state-of-the-art toilets, including ones that can detect whether the person using them has certain diseases. The network also reported on a national project in China to renovate its public toilets and a Japanese businessman who is promoting the use of safe and low-cost toilets in India.

- [Japan to allow foreign interns to work five additional years: Labor shortage increases need for technical talent](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Amnesty accuses Japan of breaching int'l rules on death penalty](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Crime syndicate members in Japan fall to record low in 2017](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan sees record marijuana cases in 2017, spike in youth involvement](#) (Kyodo News)

TRENDING@JAPAN

- [Todai grads shun Kasumigaseki for "Hongo Valley," Japan's epicenter of start-ups](#) (Nikkei)
- [Pocketalk speaks, language barriers fall](#) (AERA)

SECURITY

U.S. military resumes parachute training

TBS reported at noon that the USFJ resumed parachute drop drills today after completing an inspection of all parachutes following an incident in which a parachute was discovered at a junior high school in the vicinity of Yokota AB on April 10. The network said the Hamura City government had asked the U.S. side not to conduct the training until preventive measures have been taken. According to the network, the parachute that fell was detached by a service member for safety reasons. The Hamura City government, Tokyo government, and local authorities are reportedly discussing how to respond.

- [China possibly behind cyberattack on ex-Defense Ministry officials](#) (Sankei)
- [UK's Royal Navy deploys three ships to seas around Japan](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Column: Gov't must seriously negotiate with U.S. forces](#) (Mainichi)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

Camp Schwab ammunition depot exceeds height limit for FRF airspace

Okinawa Times led with the finding that the height of warehouses at the Ordnance Ammunition Depot on Camp Schwab apparently exceeds the limit of 55 meters above sea level set by the Department of Defense for ensuring the safety of the airspace around the Futenma Replacement

Facility. The article said about one-third of the hilly land where the ammunition supply facilities are situated is more than 55 meters above sea level in the first place. While the Okinawa Defense Bureau is reportedly aware of this fact, the U.S. side has reportedly concluded that the the depot is not subject to the height regulation because it would "not disrupt aircraft operation." The daily projected that concern may grow among local residents about FRF safety since a large amount of explosives are stockpiled at the depot.

- [Infographic: No. of cases of noise and late-night noise and no. of complaints received](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
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